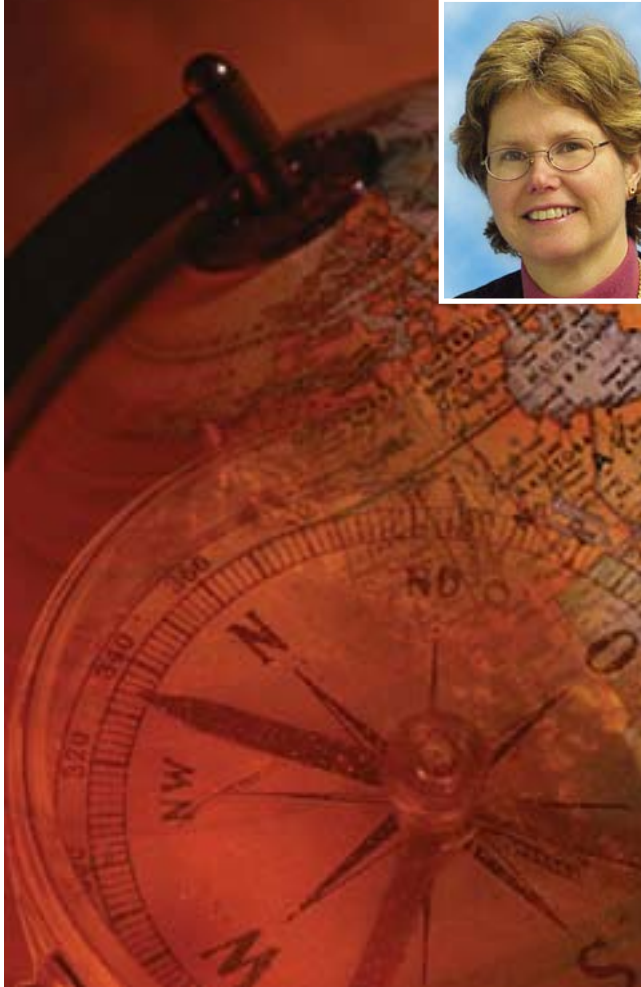


Map and Compass

By Carol R. Collier



"If you don't know where you are going, you'll probably end up somewhere else." The Rabbit in Alice in Wonderland—Lewis Carroll

Have you driven to a place that you have never been before without a map and compass? You might have a general context from previously looking at a small-scale map of the region, but have no idea of specific streets or avenues you should take. You most likely reached your destination, but drove much longer than necessary, took wrong turns and probably arrived in a bad mood.

The DRBC wants to make sure that everyone in the basin has a map and compass as we drive the route of improved water resources management. It takes many people to adequately manage water. If we can all agree to a common set of driving directions we'll end up in the desired location together and not be stuck in gridlock along the way. That is the purpose of the Water Resources Plan for the Delaware River Basin.

There are two stages of plan development: 1) Water Resources Plan and Management Strategies (may be two separate documents); and 2) organizational implementation plans including an update of the DRBC Comprehensive Plan.

Water Resources Plan for the Delaware River Basin

Since January 2001, DRBC's 40-member Watershed Advisory Council has been working with staff, the nine existing DRBC technical advisory committees, and two newly formed ad hoc technical committees to develop a succinct statement of needs and desired outcomes for effective water management in the basin. The following five Key Result Areas have been proposed:

- **Sustainable Use & Supply**

Desired Result: An adequate, reliable and

sustainable supply of water to meet human and ecological needs.

- **Waterway Corridor Management**

Desired Result: Functioning waterway corridors that minimize flood loss, have improved recreation access and support healthy ecosystems.

- **Integrated Land & Water Resource Management**

Desired Result: Land use and growth management decisions that value and protect the water resource systems that sustain our quality of life and commerce.

- **Institutional Coordination & Cooperation**

Desired Result: Improved coordination, cooperation, and information exchange.

- **Education & Participation for Stewardship**

Desired Result: An understanding and appreciation of our water resources and the commitment to their protection, restoration, and enhancement.

There is a broad realization that to be effective, management of wastewater, storm-water and water supply must be integrated. The plan must address the needs of different users of the water (human and ecological) and the sensitivities of different sub-regions of the basin. It is also recognized that each layer of government, each member of the private sector, and each non-governmental water resource organization has a distinct role to play.

There are certainly different ways to reach the desired goals. A critical step in the process is developing management scenarios. Each management scenario will address the required tasks, performance measures and indicators by which to gage progress, lead and support organizations, time frame and potential funding sources.

Our hope is that the Water Resources Plan for the Delaware River Basin will be finalized by December 2003 and embraced by all the key agencies and organizations in the basin.

DRBC Comprehensive Plan

Improvements will not be realized unless the plan is implemented. Each organization identified as a lead entity is asked to develop a strategy for implementation. As part of this task, the DRBC will be updating its Comprehensive Plan (as required by the Delaware River Basin Compact) and the six-year Water Resources Program, which is our internal action plan.

I hope that you will be an active participant in the plan development and implementation.

"There are risks and costs to a program of action. But they are far less than the long-range risks and costs of comfortable inaction."

-President John F. Kennedy